

**Jennifer S. Fajman
17922 Pond Road
Ashton, Maryland 20861**

Re: Chevy Chase Bank Building in Ashton
Preliminary Plan Number: 120070580
Site Plan File Number: 820080130

April 9, 2008

Royce Hanson, Chairman
MNCPPC Planning Board
ATTN: Chevy Chase Bank Building in Ashton
8787 Georgia Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Chairman Hanson:

There is no process for citizens to express their thoughts about the type of commercial development in the area. In the example of downtown Ashton, I do not believe that we need to have two banks. There are other banks near to the downtown Ashton area.

Given that Chevy Chase Bank is going to build a bank in the area, I want to commend the Bank personnel on how well they worked with the community in designing the bank. The bank's design incorporates many ideas of people in the community. The bank personnel met multiple times with people who live in the area, held real conversations where the attendees expressed their ideas and the Bank personnel either explained their concerns about implementing the ideas or incorporated the ideas into their design. This open process tends to make members of the community feel invested in the design.

Chevy Chase Bank personnel clearly are aware of the rural nature of the Ashton area and of the Sandy Spring-Ashton Master Plan. They have incorporated excellent landscaping into their design to emphasize the rural nature. I am also impressed that the Bank is interested in creating a building that has "green" characteristics.

I have enjoyed working with the Chevy Chase Bank personnel and look forward to working with them during the future development process.

I recommend that the Planning Board approve the Chevy Chase Bank in Ashton plan.

Sincerely,

Jennifer S. Fajman